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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/013,978	11/29/2001	Kenneth M. Fallon	81525CEB	1859

7590 05/21/2003
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EXAMINER

ERDEM, FAZLI

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2826

DATE MAILED: 05/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/013,978

Applicant(s)

FALLON ET AL.

Examiner

Fazli Erdem

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-7, 9 and 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

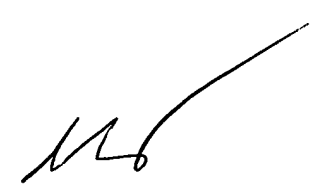
- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____


NATHAN J. FLYNN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

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DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 4,5,6,7,9 and 10 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3, and 8 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tajima (6,512,563) in view of Yamanaka et al. (6,304,309) further in view of Kashiwazaki et al. (6,339,461) further in view of Nagae et al. (6,078,379) further in view of Kondo et al. (2002/0114577).

Regarding Claims 1-10, Tajima discloses a method for producing ultrahigh resolution optical device panel where a super-resolution optical panel is fabricated such that a first circular transparent electrode is installed in the central region of a first substrate, an alignment layer is formed on the first circular transparent electrode, and alignment treatment is applied in the direction of the arrow A to the alignment layer, a second circular transparent electrode is installed on a second substrate, an alignment layer is formed on the second circular transparent electrode, an alignment treatment is applied in a direction of an arrow B parallel with and

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opposite to a direction of an arrow B parallel with and opposite to a direction of an arrow A to the entire surface of the alignment layer, the alignment layer except a circular region at the center thereof is subsequently covered with resist, an alignment treatment is applied in a direction of an arrow C orthogonal to the direction of the arrow B only to the circular region at the center, the resist is subsequently removed, and twisted nematic liquid crystal is filled between the first substrate and the second substrate, forming a twisted alignment region a parallel alignment region. Tajima fails to disclose the required plurality of holes structure, bonding structure, space between bonding structure, and the optical adhesive structure. However, Yamanaka et al. disclose a liquid crystal display device and method of manufacturing the same where the required plurality of holes structure is disclosed. Furthermore, Kashiwasaki et al. disclose a method for forming spacers, manufacturing method for a color filter having spacers, and liquid crystal element formed by using the manufacturing method, where the required bonding structure is disclosed. Nagae et al. disclose a liquid crystal display device provided with seal material and spacer made of resist where the required space between the bonding structure is disclosed. Finally, Kondo et al. disclose bonding structures for optical members where the required optical adhesive structure is disclosed.

It would have been obvious to one of having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the required plurality of holes structure, bonding structure, space between bonding structure, and the optical adhesive structure in Tajima as taught by Yamanaka et al., Kashiwasaki et al., Nagae et al., and Kondo et al. respectively in order to have a liquid crystal display device with better performance.

Conclusion

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fazli Erdem whose telephone number is (703) 305-3868. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 8:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached on (703) 308-6601. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

FE
May 19, 2003